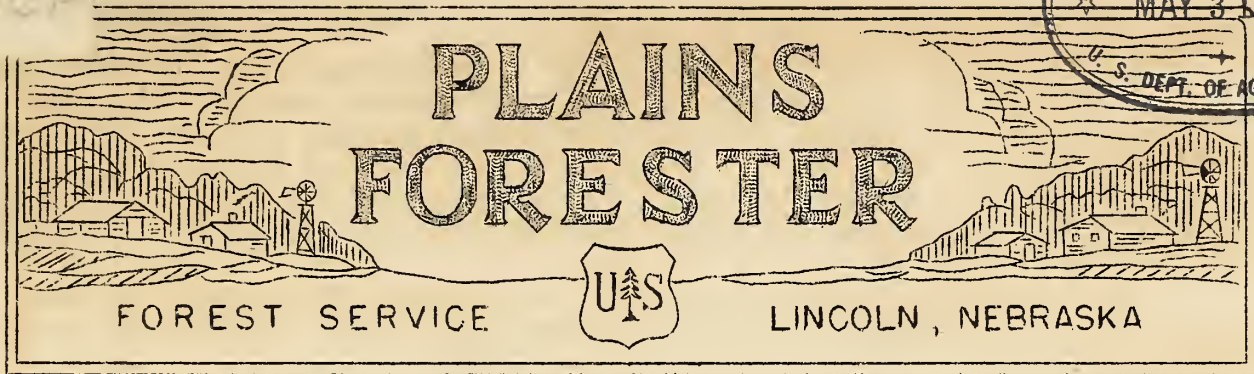
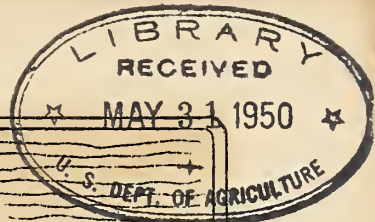


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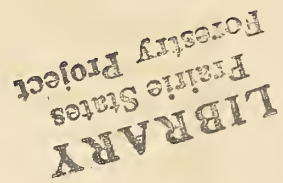
AS THE TWIG IS BENT --

By K. W. Taylor, Okla.

The school children of today are the farmers of tomorrow.

So what?

Well, let's see.



I was raised a few miles from a cluster of National Forests consisting of the Grand Mesa, the White River, the Gunnison, and the Uncompaghere. Every year a ranger would visit our school and talk to us about fire. When I was in the fourth grade, they added lantern slides, and when we received the annual lecture in my sophomore year in high school, a moving picture machine was standard equipment. Every year the talk was the same--"Keep fires down."

Oh, I'll grant that frequently the visit afforded a swell opportunity to get out of arithmetic class, and after the advent of the picture projectors, darkness covered the passing of notes to the little lassie with the flaxen braids whom I didn't marry later. I don't suppose the visiting Ranger thought us very attentive and he probably griped each year when the annual tour of the schools began. But today you will not find a more fire-conscious populace anywhere than the citizens of western Colorado, and note if you will, that though these forests are among the driest in the whole United States, you rarely hear of a forest fire report from there.

Are we hitting the ball among the younger people? Six senior classes have graduated from high school since we first started planting. Some of those boys and girls now have homes and families of their own. Many of them are on farms right in the community where they were raised.

When Mister Hitler wanted to change the thinking habits of a nation did he start on the oldsters? No, he did not, and if they dared open their yaps, he socked them in concentration camps. Now we don't want to toss Bill Brown into the hoosegow because he won't plant a shelterbelt, but if we start now Billy Brown, Jr. will have a shelterbelt on his farm when he graduates from high school three years from now.

That's long range "negotiations," but if we plan to stick around for the next 60 or 70 years and help these plains become less wind-swept, we need some long-range negotiating.

IT'S 1941 NOW! LET'S GO! ! !

RESULTS ALREADY SEEN AMONG YOUNGER GENERATION

A recent item in the "Wimbledon News" announces that Dwane Gussette, son of a prominent farmer and shelterbelt owner, has recently purchased 480 acres adjoining his father's farm. He is repairing the house and grain elevator and putting an addition on the barn. The well is being cleaned and recurbed, the fences repaired--and he has applied for a shelterbelt. The community welcomes this promising young man's enterprise and wishes him all success in the future.

We, of District II, are glad to see our diligent efforts with the first generation of shelterbelt cooperators bearing fruit in the scion of one of our A-1 cooperators.

- Leroy C. Baskin, N. Dak.

WE ARE THE FOREST SERVICE

Some weeks ago one of our district officers reported to me an experience he had while attending a meeting of people within his county. This district officer had made some effort to assume civic responsibility in his community as is naturally expected of Forest Officers. One of the farmers in the meeting, who I believe was one of our township tree committeemen, paid the individual officer and our organization a very high compliment by telling him before the whole company that the Forest Service men seem to enter into community life in a fine way and really try to become a part of the community.

Not long ago a Forest Service man in another state was reported to have been a little embarrassed by the praise that was given the organization in his presence by a person high in the civic affairs of his state, and frequently people and the press comment on the amount of authority our field men seem to possess, and the business-like manner in which they run their jobs.

These compliments make us all happy. Yet they should sober us as well, as we face the future. We have a reputation started, and it is building up daily. It is being built partly because of good techniques which have been right in a majority of cases, but it is also being built because most of our men, at least, are trying to be good citizens as well as good technicians. To the man in the street the Forest Officer is the Forest Service. To the extent that we are associated both with successful tree establishment and with the assumption of civic responsibility, we strengthen our claim on the loyalties of the community, and our abilities are magnified many times because we have many friends who know us well, and who trust us to do well whatever we undertake.

All of which reminds me of those lines by the poet, Edgar Guest:

"You ought to be fine for the sake of the folks who think you are fine,

If others have faith in you, doubly you're bound to stick to the line."

In the new year we start out to accomplish new objectives. We have the sympathetic support of many friends who are interested and helpful. Every man has more followers than he used to have if he has played his game right. Doubly we are bound for the future to do our very best.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

AMONG OUR BROADCASTERS

The Kansas State Office has recently been booked for the balance of the program year for a monthly spot on KSAC, the station at the State Agricultural College. The first broadcast of the season was recently made on the subject of rodent control and several inquiries were received from listeners by the State Office.

North Dakota has a weekly spot on the Jamestown station and is now running a series of broadcasts on the national forestry situation. The Jamestown station originates programs for a local hookup known as the North Dakota network, and sometimes the Forest Service program is heard over several North Dakota stations.

Together with a number of Departmental agencies, the Nebraska State Office is carrying a regular USDA program over the Kearney station. The Forest Service is expected to furnish a program once a month. The State had bad luck with its "Forestry in Defense" transcription, the record being broken in shipment. It was necessary to cancel two stations on it, but we are trying to get another record for the purpose of filling those dates.

District Officer Cochran, of South Dakota, broadcasts more or less regularly at Aberdeen with the County Agent, and Texas occasionally furnishes material for the programs sponsored by the USDA Coordinator's office at Amarillo. Kansas and Nebraska furnish material for the State Extension editor's radio news service, the Kansas Extension Service serving some 25 stations in Kansas and surrounding States.

A total of 60 broadcasts were made by Project personnel during 1940.
- E. L. Perry, R.O.

GLORIFYING THE RABBIT

It's the pesky rabbit again. This time it is not to condemn him, but to more or less glorify him. Here in North Dakota (and Stutsman County, too) the rabbit does have an economic value. Yes, a value at the tune of 25 cents. The fur buyers have paid two-bits for rabbits for some time now and a price increase is expected during the next two months. Rabbit control becomes a less difficult problem with such a price on their heads. Community rabbit drives are easily organized, and kills on the drives range from 100 to 250 rabbits. Usually three or four foxes are bagged on the drive and their value ranges \$3.00 upward. A rabbit drive is indeed a paying proposition. Every one is out hunting rabbits and a poisoned rabbit is picked up before he stops kicking. And to beat all, there is a movement on foot to place the rabbit on the protected list as a fur-bearing animal. (Note: If the rabbit is placed on the protected list, it will mean that all rabbit shooters will have to have a hunting license.) Now isn't that something!

- J. P. Jeffers, N. Dak.

It is a thing of no great difficulty to raise objections against another man's oration, - nay, it is a very easy matter; but to produce a better in its place is a work extremely troublesome.

- Plutarch (Reg. 9 Bulletin)

THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM

In the December Issue of PLAINS FORESTER, Ted Stebbins of Kansas brought forth what may be his number one shelterbelt problem. He has wrestled with it for three years, and will never give up.

In the next county south of him is my subdistrict. In it there are even more row miles of Chinese Elm and Hackberry, and likewise the same condition exists. Only a few trees in a row may be "rat-eared" or the entire row may be in that condition, and by the end of the season the trees are still of the same size. In fact I know of some three-year-old Chinese Elms that are less tall now than when planted.

This condition was first observed last spring, during the planting season. I wanted so badly to tell the men to replant all such stubs, but it was explained to me that only dead trees were to be replanted and not even all of them.

It wasn't until the middle of June that I realized the rabbits were nibbling off the tender sprouts almost as rapidly as they became one to three inches long. A few weeks later this discovery was old news; I saw evidences at almost every Elm or Hackberry row. Both the Elm and Hackberry are subject to the same damage but they vary widely in degree and frequency. The American Elm appears to be damaged the least, and Chinese Elm the most. From now on only the Chinese Elm will be considered.

Some conclusions were reached which are trends rather than rules.

1. That rabbits are very fond of the Chinese Elm sprouts when the leaves are small. Once the leaves have reached the normal size and color they are no longer a delicacy.

2. That the frequency of early damage varied directly with the number of hungry rabbit mouths present on the site during that short period. "Number of mouths" was not substituted for rabbit population to create any sentiment, but to eliminate the first thought that pops into one's mind - that the more rabbits the more damage, which is not true should there be present a plentiful supply of some plant more desirable than Chinese Elm.

3. That rabbits are continually searching for the first growth on the Chinese Elm. Perhaps the first few leaves which are evolved entirely from stored food of the woody plants are relished much more than leaves growing out from the tips of the already green branches.

4. That as the summer progresses the rabbit-pruned Elms throw out shoots more feebly after each trimming.

5. By fall the Elm situation is a real puzzle. Some Elms, or series of Elms, appear normal and well grown, while others seem even smaller than when planted. These latter are truly ear-marked, a rabbit can spy out a stubbed seedling among trees of full foliage and instinctively know there are a few leafy morsels just opening up for his appetite.

These Chinese Elms which are kept down to their original size make another attempt to grow the following year. When a few base leaves are left the tree can survive no telling how long, but if kept trimmed closely enough they pass out of the picture the first year. Often they are cultivated out with the weeds, or due to their weakened condition are winter killed.

Though I am satisfied that the number one shelterbelt problem is rabbits I feel even more puzzled than does Ted Stebbins. If we could stave off the rabbits for a few weeks until the first Chinese Elm sprouts begin to harden, I believe we would have the problem under control. Perhaps some repellent may do the trick of keeping the rabbits away for that short period. This could be applied by simply dipping the bundles of stock shortly before planting. But since there is little hope that any Chinese Elm stock will be available for next spring planting due to the Armistice Day freeze, the problem will have to be carried on until such time when stock will again be available for experimentation.

- Frank L. Dolence, Kans.

FARMERS TO DO OWN REPLANTING

Last fall Subdistrict Officer Evans and I decided to send cards to all 1938 and 1939 cooperators requesting that they make a survival count. Accompanying the card we sent a letter suggesting that the farmer also do whatever replanting work might be necessary in the belt. We pointed out that we might not be able, with the facilities available, to get around to all belts, and also reminded him of the advantages of planting as early in the season as possible.

Approximately 25 percent responded. The majority of those responding have plantings with exceptionally high survivals and, being impressed with the importance of replanting early, were willing to do the job themselves. At a later date all those not submitting cards were contacted and where feasible tentative arrangements made for them to do the replanting.

We believe this method will reduce our replanting of belts over one year of age by at least half, though certain disadvantages are anticipated, as follows:

1. Poor job of planting.
2. Using of trees other than in shelterbelts.
3. Planting of wrong species in row.
4. Doing unnecessary replanting.

We have hopes that the above-mentioned disadvantages may be overcome by:

1. Issuing mimeographed planting instructions.
2. Having farmer sign agreement upon receipt of trees that they will be planted only in the shelterbelt.
3. Labeling trees both as to species and row number in which to be planted.
4. Possibly circular letter explaining competition, etc.

Comments will be welcomed.

- Floyd W. Hougland, Nebr.

AAA USES "TREES TO TAME THE WIND"

"AAA News," house organ of the Agricultural Conservation Committee in North Dakota for county committeeman, has the following to say about the use of movies:

"Over 50,000 North Dakota farmers, businessmen, housewives, school children and laborers saw the sound movies, shown in 1940 by AAA county and community committeemen. That is about nine percent of the State's total population.

"Beginning in January, 1940 the three films, 'The River,' 'Farm and City Forward Together,' and 'Trees to Tame the Wind' traveled all over the state. AAA committeemen showed them at Farmer-Businessmen meetings, at Kiwanis Clubs, at AAA meetings, at Homemakers, at church suppers--in fact anywhere people were interested in the farm problem.

"THE MOVIES PROVED THEMSELVES LAST YEAR. They draw crowds to any kind of a meeting, and tell a good story after those people get there. In 1941 THE STATE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE SEVERAL NEW FILMS FOR USE IN THE COUNTIES. If you want to use any of these films--write in now before the schedule has been drawn up."

A "FAIR" SEASON

From an exhibit standpoint Kansas had a "fair" season during the fall county fair period, August 14 to November 21. During this 100-day period, 14 different displays were exhibited to an estimated 734,000 people. Most of these exhibits were doing duty about 10 hours a day. In other words, Kansas citizens were viewing and passing by Forest Service exhibits at the rate of about one person every 11 1/4 seconds. (Possible moral -- if much more time than this is required to assimilate the message in an exhibit is it doing the job it should do?)

The 14 displays were shown at 43 different locations in 29 counties. Of the displays used, five were resurrected from previous years and given "face-lifting" treatments. With these and two of this year's vintage and more "facials", we'll have seven we can use in the future, provided they don't get too antiquated or frazzled out. The other displays were of a more ephemeral nature and included floats, photo panels and window displays.

- Frank Sampson, Kans.

HE GETS RESULTS

Subdistrict Officer Ricketts has been rather boasting of his prowess as a rabbit poisoner and was asked to back up his words with a few figures. His first report stated that he had been on the J. H. Grogan belt on December 11, accompanied by two other persons, and that they found 110 rabbits dead from poison maize put out on the belt only the night before.

The fact that the 110 rabbits at least crossed the belt in one night is food for thought, as is the fact that Ricketts averaged 11 rabbits per pound of bait used in only one night exposure. He didn't mention the amount of labor used, but the bait cost was 40¢.

- Herbert R. Wells, Tex.

PAGE BARON MUNCHAUSEN, PLEASE!

At our district rodent control training school conducted by Frank Sampson in October, we learned an almost endless list of ideas to help us meet the everlasting problem of tree protection.

Just recently I learned of an old, yet new idea which should be added to Frank's list. The idea was for many years the secret of an old trapper back East, and it struck me that plains foresters should find his method extremely useful for combating rabbits in shelterbelts.

Here is the story as he told it:

"When I was a boy there was no law against trapping rabbits, and in this sport I became so proficient I had no equal. This dexterity had been acquired through the advice of an old Irishman.

"He told me to sprinkle Scotch snuff on a large flat stone and place it in the path where rabbits ran; when they came along they would smell the snuff, sneeze, and bang their heads against the stone with such force they would drop dead.

"I caught so many rabbits in this manner I was finally obliged to give it up as my family had eaten so much rabbit meat they would all jump every time they heard a dog bark."

- Jim McCracken, Kans.

OH! DEAR

As a journalist, somehow I just don't seem to ring the bell. A good two hours have passed and I'm still sitting here trying to think of something to write about for PLAINS FORESTER.

I've thought of questioning Harold Engstrom's comment in the December issue regarding the decrease in the use of the most popular of North Dakota's shrubs, the Russian Olive. I also think of writing a yard about swapping my various titles for one that has some connection with forestry and will not cause my ears to turn pink when explaining it to - er - civilians.

Or maybe a story about: A null and void five dollar check in our files from an enthusiastic cooperator. Or about the large number of rabbits killed last year at 10 cents apiece and our biggest drive this year netting only 47 rabbits at 25 cents apiece.

As a safety feature, maybe I should write about letting the insurance lapse on my car December 1, and buying another at my own expense Christmas Day.

It might also be interesting to know just how much I dropped at the Firemen's Annual Feed and Smoker the other night if I were inclined to tell.

I suppose everybody in the organization has already heard at North Dakota's Rabbit Ranger, Auburn Coe, shot a big buck while on a hunting trip out Montana way this fall. He didn't mention it was a buck rabbit and we didn't think of it until we talked with one of his hunting partners.

I guess I'll just give up for this month. Maybe for next month I will be able to think of something. Nothing ever happens up here.

- Charles F. Pears, N. Dak.

ALKALI TOLERANCE OF SHELTERBELT SPECIES IN MEADE CO., KANS.

Data obtained in Meade County, Kansas, concerning survival and growth of a 1940 planting made on a white alkali site where excellent care has been given, are of particular interest in view of the research done by J. H. Stoeckeler of the Lake States Station relative to alkali tolerance of shelter-belt species. No technical soils analyses have been run on any of the sites discussed herein, but it seems probable that both sodium sulphate and calcium carbonate are present.

The composition, survival and tree condition in a 1940 belt are as follows:

<u>Row</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>% Survival</u>	<u>Condition</u>
1	Tamarix	98%	excellent
2	Blank		
3	Ponderosa Pine	57%	average
4	Mulberry	98%	fair
5	Hackberry	96%	fair
6	Honeylocust	97%	fair
7	Honeylocust	97%	fair
8	Cottonwood	97%	good
9	Cottonwood	97%	good
10	Russian Olive	96%	good

Pine survival was greatly reduced following severe soil blowing from an adjacent field to the north shortly following planting.

Other plantings made on similar sites in 1939 include additional species, but available survival and condition data are not very accurate. However, such data (taken in the fall of 1939) as are available might be of interest.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Approx. Proportion Alive</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Russian Olive	2/3	fair
Mulberry	3/5	fair
Hackberry	4/5	poor
Green Ash	4/5	fair
Honeylocust	9/10	fair
Chinese Elm	1/5	poor
Osageorange	1/2	poor

Replants made in 1940 show the following results on survival and condition where data are available.

<u>Species</u>	<u>% Survival</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Chinese Elm	91%	good
Honeylocust	87%	fair
Russian Olive	55%	good

Russian Olive survival in these plantings was materially reduced by grasshopper damage. Also in 1939, an extremely dry year, lack of moisture

affected survival on these belts more than any other single factor, including damage resulting from soil salts, except insofar as they increase droughtiness.

Considering such data as are available on these plantings, I should list the species used in the following order with reference to their desirability for planting on white alkali soil in a semi-arid region;

1. Tamarix
2. Cottonwood
Russian Olive
Mulberry
3. Chinese Elm
Honeylocust
Green Ash
4. Hackberry
Osageorange
Pine

This material seems to support the relative tolerance data given in the PLAINS FORESTER article by Stoeckeler. Apparently, to judge from the foregoing results, pregerminated seed experiments accurately predict results of planting. On the other hand, comparison with ungerminated seed experiments shows several rather pronounced discrepancies, particularly with reference to Mulberry and Honeylocust.

- Donald P. Duncan, Kans.

SHELTERBELTS RATE MENTION IN ALMANAC

The following items appear in the 1939 Texas Almanac:

Cottle County..... Crops: The county grows from 15,000 to 35,000 bales of cotton, grain sorghums, corn, wheat and hay. Fruits and vegetables are largely grown for home consumption. Farmers are practicing soil conservation and building trees for protection against wind erosion of soils.

Hall County Crops: Shelterbelt trees have been planted as windbreaks.

Wheeler County Crops: and 75 miles of shelterbelt timber have been planted.

- Hy Goldberg, Tex.

SHELTERBELT CAUSE OF FATAL ACCIDENT?

Well, Karl, your worst fears have become a reality. (See Mr. Ziegler's "Danger! Look Ahead!" article in the October issue of PLAINS FORESTER and his previous articles on this same subject.)

A shelterbelt is held to be at least partially to blame for an accident which occurred at a cross-road in Morrill County. One man died in the collision

and his wife was seriously injured. The owner of the belt made the following statement: "Have heard no complaint on account of trees, but personally think trees cause it to be a blind corner."

We feel that in most cases redesigning the shelterbelts so as to include shrubs clear across the ends will not be the answer inasmuch as most shrubs will grow up to a point where even they will obstruct the view. In these cases probably the shelterbelt should be dropped entirely for some distance before reaching the corner.

As Mr. Ziegler points out we must act soon--we must act before any more fatal accidents occur that may be chargeable to our shelterbelts.

- L. F. Joris, Nebr.

SHELTERBELTS AS BLIND SPOTS AT HIGHWAY INTERSECTIONS

Readers of PLAINS FORESTER have no doubt seen a number of articles from Kansas pointing to its concern over the possibility of traffic accidents resulting from our shelterbelts obstructing vision at road intersections. A rather recent one by Carl Ziegler foretold the possibility of fatal accidents at such blind corners. A short time ago such an accident occurred in the Alliance district, and the shelterbelt was considered at least partially to blame as reported by Joris, resulting in the death of one man and serious injury to his wife. The owner of the shelterbelt made the following statement: "Have heard no complaint on account of trees, but personally think trees cause it to be blind corner."

Officially, the Regional Office has concerned itself with this problem primarily as it affected Kansas, because in that State there are some local laws prohibiting vegetative growth near road intersections that might dangerously reduce visibility for oncoming drivers. However the problem may be of wider interest. Also with the increased interest of highway engineers in our shelterbelts for highway protection against snow drifting, there is a possibility that much of our future planning will be developed with road plans and include not only highway protection and roadside beautification but also safeguards against traffic accidents.

Desirable as it is to contribute in every way possible to the reduction of auto accidents, all things cannot be made secondary to safety in auto travel. In the case of roadside shelterbelts it does not seem reasonable that their effectiveness to farm protection must be greatly reduced through redesigning and relocating in order to safeguard the thoughtless driver or his victims. In the country as well as the cities, improved safe driving will have to rely largely upon stop-sign warnings and educating drivers to slow down at obvious dangerous blind intersections or the whole pattern of farming and city arrangements will have to be changed.

A shelterbelt does not obscure an intersection any more than a corn field, in fact not as much, because the corn fields usually extend to the fence whereas the shelterbelts do not.

The laws in Kansas do not pertain to removal of vegetation within the farmer's field obscuring the view, but to weeds and other growth outside

the fence or farm boundary. The object of these laws is to avoid as far as possible intersections of country roads made as narrow as the autos themselves by a bank of high weeds or brush on both sides. We are all familiar with those kinds of intersections. They are like intersections in a narrow tunnel. I don't know of a single case where our shelterbelts leave such narrow openings except on private lanes.

However, there may be unusually dangerous intersections made so for one reason or another where even the usual 66 foot right-of-way plus turning room left at the end of each belt (total clearance about 100 feet) is likely to be a blind spot for the ordinary rate of travel through the intersection. When these are pointed out as danger spots by highway engineers we can improve visibility by the following modifications in our standard design, without seriously reducing the effectiveness of the shelterbelt for the farmer and highway protection against snow drifting.

With the standard 10-row basic belt the ends may be sheared off at about a 45° angle leaving the inside row (Number 10, or, if a shrub row, Numbers 10 and 9,) intact and cutting the others off where this 45° line falls. This will increase the line of vision at the approach to an intersection about 50 feet and at the same time leave one or two rows on the field side of the belt intact to protect the full width of the farmer's field.

To increase this line of vision by stopping the whole belt 50 or more feet from the road greatly reduces its effectiveness, i.e., the openings through our pattern of shelterbelts are greatly enlarged. We are already worrying about these "normal" openings and the channeling effects of winds through them. Our best solution to this problem is short right angle extensions added to the basic belts to at least cut off quartering winds. But if the belts are squared off 50 feet or so infield this short extension will also be infield, and so the farmer begins to tell us what he is trying to do on his farm.

Tapering off the ends with shrubs does not solve the problem because dense shrubs four to eight feet tall will, if anything, obstruct the vision more than trees.

It has been suggested that instead of removing the trees (or omitting planting them) in this triangular piece caused by shearing off the corners, shrubs be omitted and only species planted that will later attain height, so they may be pruned underneath in order to enable the autist to look through or under the trees. This suggestion has merit in older plantings but obviously for quite a few years in the younger plantings such trees would obscure the view the same as shrubs, corn or weeds.

If we are to continue planting our basic belts on the boundary lines the best method of meeting this problem seems to be to shear off the corners at such dangerous intersections. However, the narrower the belt the less we can increase this line of vision and at the same time maintain one or more rows the full width of the field. Consequently if basic or roadside belts are made of five rows or less, they will need to be set infield, three rods or more, in order to obtain the same increased line of vision as the sheared 10-row

belt. Also, that same consideration needs to be given the narrow belts in connection with the snow drifting problem. That is, a 10-row belt placed on the windward side of the highway is wide enough to provide the snow trap in itself between the highway and row 10 (row ten if a shrub is the one that dumps the snow.) However, a three- or five-row belt if placed along the edge of the road is too close, and unless set infield is likely to dump snow in the highway instead of protecting it.

That's my story. - What's yours?

- D. S. Olson, R. O.

NEWS STORY OF THE MONTH

ACTUAL DOLLAR VALUATION NOW BEING PLACED ON SHELTERBELTS (Elk City Daily News, Elk City, Oklahoma)

Since the trees planted in shelterbelts in the Elk City district have been large enough to cast a shadow and to provide nesting places for birds, the stock valuation of enthusiastic land owners has been "I wouldn't take a thousand dollars for my trees."

This season, according to James W. Kyle, assistant forester in charge of the district, many of the land owners have been able to place actual dollar and cents valuations on their trees.

W. P. (Bill) Ramsey, southeast of Elk City in Washita county, has records to show that he produced about \$600 worth of melons and other produce from 12 acres of land protected by a 1937 shelterbelt from the first planting this year. His farm is sandy and subject to severe wind erosion unless protected. Asked what he would have produced on the same land this year, knowing his land and the year's weather conditions, his reply was that he would have been forced to plant either grain sorghum or sweet sorghum as a "catch" crop, and that such a crop very likely would not have been worth more than \$100.

J. S. Prickett, of Washita county estimates that his shelterbelts have increased the value of his farm by \$3 or more per acre. Asked whether or not the trees sapped his soil for a considerable distance from the belt, he declared that the treebelts may sap the soil "a little" but that they could "sap a third of my farm and it still would produce more crops than before the trees were planted."

A. C. Nelson, of Woodward county says he expects his shelterbelt to sell his farm. He believes the trees will increase the value of the land and make the farm more attractive to a prospective buyer.

Frank Beaty of Roger Mills county has a 1935 treebelt through the center of the farm and he declares he now watches his livestock to forecast accurately the weather. A lane has been fenced through the shelterbelt. If the wind is going to blow strongly from the south or southwest, he declares, the livestock will remain on the north side of the belt. If it is going to be a north or northwest storm, the stock goes to the south side of the belt. If it is to be a nice day, the livestock scatters, some going north and some south, paying little attention to the shelter.

STEP UP TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

During the three years "come next spring" that I have been on the Project, I reckon nearly everyone in this state but myself has contributed at least one article for PLAINS FORESTER. Now that I am about to leave the Project for the Army, I feel that it is fitting and proper for me to leave some one little thing (besides past mistakes) to prolong the memory of Yours Truly.

As a stenographer, I have learned that an unpardonable sin, for which one should expect a fate somewhat worse than death, is that of misspelling a word. For that reason, I have always stressed frequent consultation of our dear old friend, Noah Webster. Desiring to set a fine example, I always, or nearly always, looked up every strange word, which brings us up to the present crisis.

While typing a manuscript for Associate Forester Williams, I stumbled (or maybe I should say "fell") across the word "pycnidiospore." In view of what I have stated before in this article, I proceeded to consult the dictionary for enlightenment as to the meaning of the word. And here - more or less - are the results.

Pycnidiospore was defined as "a pycnospore". Hence, I had to look up pycnospore which was defined as "One of the conidia produced within pycnidium." A pycnidium is a flask-shaped spore fruit bearing conidiophores and conidia (pycnospores) on the interior, occurring in certain imperfect fungi and in certain ascomycetes. Ascomycetes - A large class of higher fungi distinguished by septate hyphae, and by having their spores formed in asci, or spore sacs. It comprises many orders, among which are the Saccharomycetales (yeasts), Aspergillales (molds), Perisporiales (mildews). Tuberales (truffles), Helvellales (morels, etc.). Three are three subclasses, Hemiascomycetes, Protoascomycetes, and Euascomycetes.

Well! Well! That seems clear enough, doesn't it? Now about that word conidia, plural of conidium, the definition is as follows: An asexual spore produced by abstriction from the tip of a specialized hypha (conidiophore). Loosely, any asexual reproductive spore formed by segmentation of the mycelium or by division of certain cells into many fragments. This led me to wonder what a conidiophore is. I found that a conidiophore is a structure which bears conidia; in certain fungi, a specialized, typically erect and aerial, hyphal branch which produces successive conidia by abstriction. Well, I'm sure we all know what abstriction is. No? Well imagine that! Abstriction is the formation of spores by the cutting off of successive portions of the sporophore through the growth of septa. Sporophore and septa - what are they? A sporophore is-----Oh, I give up. I'd rather look up pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis.

By the way, what is a pycnidiospore?

- Ross M. Evenstad, N. Dak.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to announce the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Woolery. Miss Lou Anne was born November 27, 1940 at 7:20 A. M., weight 6 pounds.

- Howard Carleton, Jr. Kans.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS GO PLACES

The Project in South Dakota is spreading out into far away places. I just approved and signed two cooperative agreements for two half-mile belts on two farms in Lake County owned by Herbert R. and Emil F. Hannemann of Madang, New Guinea Territory. For those who need brushing up on their geography, New Guinea Territory is part of an island in the Pacific just north of Australia. Those two cooperative agreements had some ride down there and back for the purpose of receiving the signatures of the owners of these two farms.

South Dakota is not claiming any record on this for the reason that we were punched into "slap-happiness" in connection with a daily planting record we sprung last spring. However, if anyone claims the residence of a cooperator a greater distance from home, we would be interested measuring distances with him.

If this thing keeps spreading out, it would not surprise us one bit if some day we should sign up some "bird" living in Texas.

- A. L. Ford, S. Dak.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL ON KANSAS UNIT

The following changes in personnel have recently been made on the Kansas Unit. Robert D. McCulley and Donald P. Duncan, Subdistrict Officers at Anthony and Meade, respectively, since the spring of 1939, were transferred on December 28 to the Southern Forest Experiment Station, with Harrison, Arkansas, as their new official station. They have been assigned to the White River Flood Control Survey.

Tom Sawyer, Junior Clerk Stenographer at the Kinsley District Office since November 1938, was transferred to the Soil Conservation Office at Altus, Oklahoma, on December 11.

Lex Evans, formerly employed in the District Office at Kingman, has been assigned to fill the vacancy at Kinsley.

Merrill A. Matthews was transferred from Nebraska on January 7 to take charge of the Anthony Subdistrict.

We are sorry to lose the three members of our Kansas organization but wish them success in their new assignments. We are glad to have Lex back on the Project and to welcome Mr. Matthews as a new member of the Kansas organization.

Regretfully, but with satisfaction, the Kansas personnel bids adieu to Ralph Johnston, District Officer at Kinsley since 1936, who has been transferred to Shamrock, Texas, where he will serve as District Officer. Ralph has had a tough assignment in the Kinsley country but has always been able to keep on top of the job, and in the words of State Director Reitz is "ready to go" to a new assignment with new responsibilities.

John D. Hall, Kans.

NURSERYMAN ERRS

Al Klein is hanging his head. On recently completing the digging of Coffeetree at the Plainview Nursery, Al found that he was 12 shy of the estimated 11,437 trees. His only comment was, "Must have put 12 good trees in culls." Actual count - 11,425. The State Office has properly given Al 'ell.

- Hy Goldberg, Tex.